**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. Describe the nature of a wiki.

A wiki is a website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content.

1. What are strengths of wikis?

The strengths of a wiki is that multiple people can work on the same document and that it allows visitors read what the community has written and can contribute to or edit the knowledge contained on the page.

1. Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.

Public wikis allow unregistered users, identified by their IP address, to edit content whilst private and protected wikis only allow registered users to edit the content on the page.

1. What is meant by soft security?

Soft security is meant by the openness of the wiki and how susceptible it is to vandalism.

**Blogs**

1. What is a blog?

A blog is a website that has only one main page and acts like an online journal or diary.

1. Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.

A blog is usually contained by one author who makes regular entries whilst wikis allow many people to enter information on the wiki.

**Forums**

1. Describe the nature of a forum.

The nature of a forum is to support online communities that wish to facilitate information exchange.

1. What is a thread?

A thread is a collection of posts displayed from oldest to latest.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. To broadcast information and events using various tools
   1. List tools for broadcasting information.

* A simple website
* A blog set up for the organisation
* An emailing mailing list
* A twitter account
  1. What is a RSS feed?

RSS feed is really simple syndication which allows users to receive content feed s from a variety of sources.

1. To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools
   1. What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?

For collaborative problem solving to work well it needs to be developed in a way that ensures that the process is sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing circumstances.

* 1. Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.

Synchronous means that the collaboration can happen in real time using chat or video conferencing software. Asynchronous means that there is no timing requirement for the exchange of data.

1. To store and develop organisational knowledge
   1. List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange.

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

Be aware of the following:

In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. Online communities appealing to gender groups
2. Online communities appealing to special needs
3. Online communities appealing to cultural needs
4. Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities
5. Access requirements need also to be considered, (open or closed).

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. Ensuring privacy in an online community
   1. Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.

To decrease the risk of an attack all request for membership are properly verified, all passwords must consist of numbers, letters, symbols and minimal lengths to lower the probability of a ‘hackable’ password and community administrators need to be observant to what is happening in the community and quick to pounce on inappropriate behaviour that goes against the protocols of the community.

* 1. How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?

It protects privacy because it doesn’t allow the owners of the online communities to use collected data for any other purpose without consent.

1. Copyright in online communities
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?

When setting up a community you must ask yourself these question:

* Do you own the images and text that you are using on the website?
* Are you infringing on the copyright of others by broadcasting discussions and ides in an open forum?

1. Human rights requirements
   1. What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

The online community must not:

* Encourage hate crimes or the religious vilification of others
* Discriminate on the basis of gender, culture and sexuality
* Encourage the victimisation of members of the community

1. Social online protocols
   1. What is meant by online protocols?

Online protocols are a set of rules or procedures used online.